

California Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee (BDPAC)
Water Supply Subcommittee (WSS)
Wednesday, April 11, 2007
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon
The Bonderson Building
901 P Street, Hearing Room 102-A
Sacramento, California

Meeting Summary

Introductions

The following Water Supply Subcommittee members and alternates attended the meeting: Steve Hall, Jerry Meral, Marguerite Naillon for Greg Gartrell, Tim Quinn, Gary Bobker, Randall Neudeck, and Steve Macaulay and Lillian Kawasaki both members of the Bay Delta Public Advisory Committee (BDPAC).

The meeting focused on the following agenda items:

1. Subcommittee Prioritization for Storage and Conveyance
2. South Delta Improvement Program
3. Performance Measures Programmatic Assessment
4. Carbon Sequestration in the Delta
5. Program Plan Briefings
 - a. Conveyance
 - b. Environmental Water Account
 - c. Water Use Efficiency
 - d. Storage

**1. Subcommittee Prioritization for Storage and Conveyance -- Presenters:
Jerry Meral and Steve Hall (WSS Co-chairs)**

The Subcommittee Co-chairs proposed the Subcommittee make recommendations to the BDPAC on the prioritization of future State and Federal funding of Conveyance and Storage programs. It was generally agreed that prioritization criteria should be developed by the Subcommittee and briefings by the State and Federal implementing agencies be provided on each Conveyance and Storage project.

Action Items:

- California Department of Water Resources (DWR) will initiate a conference call this week with the Co-chairs to discuss the details and implementation of this proposal.
- Anyone with suggested criteria should email the Co-chairs with their suggestions.
- Co-chairs will draft criteria, route for comment and propose the draft criteria at the next Subcommittee meeting.

- May 16th was suggested for the Surface Storage and June 6th for the Conveyance briefings to the Subcommittee. However, there may be a conflict with the May 16th date and could be changed.
- The resulting Subcommittee recommendations will go to the Authority through the BDPAC and ultimately the implementing agencies.

2. South Delta Improvement Program (SDIP) -- Presenters: Paul Marshall and Kathy Kelly (DWR)

The history dating back to the 1980's and current status of the SDIP were presented. (See presentation materials.) The current SDIP has two major parts: the permanent operable gates (POG) and the increase diversion component - increasing the State Water Project (SWP) allowable permitted diversion limit into the SWP Clifton Court Forebay from 6,680 cubic feet per second (cfs) to 8500 cfs. The gates serve to control water levels for Delta Agricultural interests, improve water quality by increasing flow circulation, and the head of Old River gate helps maintain in stream flows on the San Joaquin River to improve conditions for salmon migration.

The Environmental Impact Report and Statement (EIR/S) was certified on December 15, 2006 which recommended the construction of permanent operable gates (Stage 1) but did not recommend a specific operation at the increased diversion limit (Stage 2). Copies of the Final EIR/S are on the DWR webpage. DWR and Reclamation requested Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fishery Services (NMFS) that would be based upon the existing Biological Opinions for the SWP and the Central Valley Project (CVP). USFWS recommended that the SDIP Stage 1 consultation be incorporated into the new ESA consultation for the SWP and CVP. NMFS suspended ESA consultation on SDIP Stage 1 and required the consultation to be incorporated into the new ESA consultation for the SWP and CVP. This change in the ESA consultation will delay the installation and operation of the gates by about two years, from 2009 to 2011.

Comments:

There were several questions on cost, if the gates included boat locks and if any of these features were needed if an isolated facility were constructed. The cost of the gates, dredging, and associated mitigation is about \$100M. All gates will have boat locks except the gate on Middle River. These facilities may still be needed during the interim period prior to the completion of an isolated facility or if only a portion of the diversions were conveyed in an isolated facility and a portion continued from the south Delta.

3. Performance Measures Programmatic Assessment -- Presenters: Sue Dukes (CALFED) and Tim Quinn (Metropolitan Water District (MWD))

Tim Quinn as Co-chair of the newly created BDPAC Program Performance and Financing Subcommittee presented a draft report on CALFED's Water Supply Reliability Program Performance. The report is a retrospective evaluation of progress made relative to the schedules contained in the CALFED's Record of Decision (ROD) for the Surface Storage, Conjunctive Use, Water Use Efficiency, Conveyance, Water Transfers and Environmental Water Account programs. Generally, performance was low due to unrealistic schedules and optimistic funding levels contained in the ROD. The presenters requested review and comments from the committee and the public. The final report will be presented to Congress, the California State Legislature and the public. Of greater interest was a commitment to provide a prospective performance report to the Legislature in June 2007.

Comments:

There were several specific comments voiced on the draft, and there was general agreement that a retrospective and prospective review was useful.

Action Items:

- Comments are due to CALFED by April 17, 2007
- CALFED will incorporate comments and redraft by April 30, 2007
- CALFED will forward the document through BDPAC and the Authority in time for the Authority to present it to the Legislature on May 9, 2007.
- A separate prospective report will be prepared and brought to the WSS for review and comment in time for presentation to the Legislature in June 2007.

4. Carbon Sequestration in the Delta -- Presenter: Roger Fujii (USGS)

Mr. Fujii presented several completed studies to re-establish wetlands in order to reverse subsidence and actually raise land surface elevations on Twitchell Island. Studies show that re-establishing Delta Tules and cattails in shallow (10 inches) permanently flooded areas works best to reverse subsidence through plant growth. Future studies will be conducted on a farm scale (670 acres on Twitchell Island) to test and identify the variables that optimize plant biomass accretion, maximize sequestration of CO₂ from the atmosphere, and minimize discharges of greenhouse gases, methyl mercury and dissolved organic carbon.

Action Item:

- The subcommittee requested that the presentation be posted with the WSS summary and links to past and future study documents be provided.

5. Program Plan Briefings

A. Environmental Water Account (EWA) -- Presenter: Tim Quinn (MWD)

The EWA budget for 2007 is \$32 million with 265 taf of water total allocation of which 65 taf has been used and 200 taf is still available for use. There is no new money available for next year but some is expected to role over. The Director of DWR has also said DWR will backstop the EWA by balancing the sale of Article 21 water with the needs of EWA. There is a promising study underway that correlates turbidity with the presences of Delta Smelt allowing the accurate prediction of Delta smelt in the Delta ultimately optimizing the use of EWA water to avoid take at the SWP and CVP pumps.

B. Conveyance -- Presenter: Don Kurosaka (DWR)

Nine conveyance projects were described along with their schedules and budgets. See presentation materials.

Comments:

Subcommittee members noted that current conveyance study schedules may not be supportive of legislative actions underway.

C. Water Use Efficiency -- Presenter: Manucher Alemi (DWR)

The Presenter reviewed the accomplishments of Fiscal year 2006 and plans for Fiscal year 2007

Comments:

The Subcommittee suggested that an estimate of the amount of water saved and the cost be reported in future presentations.

D. Surface Storage Program -- Presenter: Stephen Roberts (DWR)

This presentation was deferred to the next WSS meeting because the other presentations ran past the scheduled 12 noon ending time.

Comments:

Public members who had come specifically to hear about the Storage Program report and voiced their disappointment. One member of the public said they were not being notified of the WSS meetings and wanted to be sure they were on the notification list.

Action Items:

- Steve Roberts offered to meet with anyone interested to go over the presentation and answer any questions.
- Attendees were encouraged to leave there names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses if they wanted to be on the notification list.